

IN THE BEGINNING



Published Quarterly By
Woodson County Historical Society
Yates Center, Kansas
Vol. 20 - No. 80

IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 20-No. 80

October, 1987

Lester A. Harding, Editor

Editor's Notes —

It is with mixed feelings that we come to the place where we feel like we should find a good quitting place. When we started this little "Book" as many call it we never dreamed what the results would be. While we know that there has been many mistakes, we believe it has been worth the effort.

While we were looking around for someone to print **In The Beginning**, Walter Bowers and myself hunted up printers in several towns around and finally took the price of Norman Printing Company in Iola. They printed the No. 1, and are printing No. 80. To our way of thinking they have been No. 1 for twenty years.

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IN MEMORIAN

Virgil Mossman

79

August 20, 1987

Mr. Mossman was a teacher in the Yates Center schools and took quite an interest in the Historical Society, although not a native of the county.

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While it does not seem feasible, The Woodson County Historical Society had lost just 100 members since its organization in March 1965.

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There has been some discussion of whether **In The Beginning** will be continued by other members of the Historical Society. There has been an index copied. We do not know just how that will be handled.

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Another group we would like to thank and that is the Patrons whose names always appeared on the back page. Their donations helped keep up where the subscriptions could not.

Our front cover picture is a painting by the artist Gary Hawk of Iola. The picture was painted at the Kimbel Ranch of Northwest Woodson County.

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IN THE BEGINNING

Published Quarterly By

Woodson County Historical Society

Yates Center, Kansas.

\$4.00 per year

\$1.00 per copy

MANY CHANGES HAVE OCCURED

Since those we are honoring in this last issue of "In The Beginning," Lester and Edith have given serious thought to giving up his writing for some time. He has made the decision to give up publishing "In The Beginning" which has been the voice of the Woodson County Historical Society.

Therefore, we only see fit to dedicate this issue to Lester and Edith Harding for their dedicated service as historians of Woodson County. To go a step farther, Lester has edited this quarterly without compensation of any kind. It was edited, printed and mailed at cost.

Lester started writing for the Woodson County newspaper in February 1935.

In March 1965, the Woodson County Historical Society was organized. Lester was very instrumental in that endeavor. The result was a very active society.

In November 1965, the old stone hatchery was purchased. This was the first church building in Yates Center. People of this First Christian Church came from different localities. It was started in 1877, and finished sometime in 1878.

Through much volunteer and donations, along with a one-tenth of a mill from the county one of the nicest museums in this part of the state is in Yates Center.

In January 1968, Lester took it upon himself to publish the quarterly, "In The Beginning." This quarterly is sent regularly to many points throughout the United States - including thirty different states, counting Hawaii. Copies have been sent to England, Italy, Scotland, and New Zealand. They go to libraries in Yates Center; Allen and Chanute JUCO; Kansas University; New York City Public Library; Newberry Library, Chicago; Cornell University; Wisconsin State Historical Society.

In his many years working over Woodson County, Lester has acquired a mammoth amount of all types of material. He also has a large collection of all types of antiquated household and farm items, many of which are in the Museum.

His accumulation of materials on roads, creeks, rivers, cemeteries, family history, schools, churches, and etc. is unbelievable.

Lester's writing and publication will be missed.

Thanks again, Lester and Edith.

Kenny Stockebrand

HORTICULTURAL REPORTS OF WOODSON COUNTY

March 1, 1883 — Bearing Trees —					
Apple	Pears	Peaches	Plums	Cherry	
35,424	763	74,081	1,503	9,710	
Non-bearing Trees					
43,416	3,409	21,369	3,445	10,412	
March 1, 1936 — Bearing Trees —					
4,838	1,262	3,297	1,203	980	
Non-bearing Trees					
945	181	610	358	864	
March 1, 1937 — Bearing Trees —					
3,893	1,108	2,542	900	709	
Non-bearing Trees					
696	37	333	195	487	
March 1, 1938 — Bearing Trees —					
3,701	1,137	2,578	848	620	
Non-bearing Trees					
715	106	1,809	319	489	
March 1, 1939 — Bearing Trees —					
3,249	835	2,450	820	642	
Non-bearing Trees					
699	209	1,003	236	293	
March 1, 1940 — Bearing Trees —					
2,751	825	1,879	715	519	
Non-bearing Trees					
1,039	157	1,428	255	290	
March 1, 1941 — Bearing Trees —					
2,408	833	2,186	754	514	
Non-bearing Trees					
1,344	193	1,429	344	444	
March 1, 1943 — Bearing Trees —					
1,629	661	908	399	400	
Non-bearing Trees					
1,658	294	1,844	326	449	
March 1, 1944 — Bearing Trees —					
2,128	786	1,447	423	493	
Non-bearing Trees					
1,576	786	1,499	513	574	
March 1, 1945 — Bearing Trees —					
2,346	792	1,640	472	561	
Non-bearing Trees					
1,836	436	2,352	391	525	

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Eminence township named for Eminence, Kentucky, by J.B. Jones who came here in 1870. Jones ran a "country Tavern" at the "12 Mile House," Twelve miles west of Humboldt, or a mile north and two east of Rose. This 12 Mile House was a station along the Humboldt-Belmont wagon and stage coach road.

ODDS AND ENDS —

Sarah A. Watkins was born in Old Carolina, November 27, 1825. When she was about six years old, she moved with her parents, Hezikia and Rachel Watkins, to Shelby County, Illinois. Two years later her mother died. In another two years her father died, leaving four small children. On February 10, 1840, when she was only 15 years old, Sarah A. Watkins was married to Daniel P. Fleming. They were the parents of six children, Mrs. M. V. B. Pearsoll, Mrs. W. C. McBride ().

In 1857, the Flemings came to Lynn County, Kansas, and to Woodson County, Kansas in 1858 and settled along Big Sandy Creek. On May 8, 1860, Daniel Fleming died leaving four children. Mrs. Fleming struggled through the great drouth of 1860, followed by the Civil War. She with her children lived in a small log cabin on a claim along a branch that runs east from Big Sandy Creek, in Section 7, 26, 15, and endured all privations of pioneer life among the early settlers of Woodson County. A log cabin was her home for quite a few years.

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Jessie Jardine was born at Kinghorn, Scotland, July 8, 1838. Her father was a Presbyterian minister, and her mother died while she was quite young. Jessie went to Edinburgh where she received her education. When she was 13 years old, Jessie went to Australia, where she stayed for another 13 years. She went back to Scotland in 1869, where she was married to William Cooper in Broughtyferry, June 16, 1870. They came directly to America and to Woodson County, Kansas, where Mr. Cooper purchased a ranch along North Owl Creek, 2½ miles north of present Yates Center. They lived on this farm or ranch for 32 years before moving to Yates Center. Jessie had united with the Presbyterian church in Scotland, and was a charter member of the Yates Center Presbyterian Church. Later she was confirmed into the Episcopal Church, November 15, 1897, being a member of the second confirmation class here. Jessie organized the Reading Circle that was called the "Jessie Cooper Reading Circle." It started with four members and reached to over 25 members. She was leader of the circle for 19 years. William and Jessie were the parents of five children, three dying in infancy. Others were Don Ashley and Edith.

Adkins - Reader - Knibbs -

George Reader and Zara Elizebeth Adkins were united in marriage about 1876. Two children to this union, Charles Adelbert and Lucy Mable. The Reader family is believed to have been from Illinois, but not much is known of the early history of this family. After a short illness George passed away and is buried in Bruceville, Illinois.

Zara Elizebeth Adkins was born February 7, 1859, in Ottawa, Illinois, to Charles and Mary Adkins. Zara's mother died when she was nine years old. Her father was said to have died in the Civil War. She was raised by a family near Braceville by the name of Laymon, whom she lived with for about eight years.

Zara married George J. Knibbs, of Verona, Illinois on September 28, 1881. They came to Kansas in the spring of 1883, and settled on a farm in the Ward Neighborhood, northwest of Fall River. To this union were born seven children; Clyde Ellsworth, Ethel Mae, Anna Jane, Sadie Louise, Myrtle Iona, Edna Grace, (dying in infancy) and Hilda Gladys. In 1902 they moved to Toronto in Woodson County. George Knibbs was a farmer until they moved to the city, where he worked as a mason and carpenter.



Zara Elizebeth — wife of George Knibbs.

Charles Adelbert Reader was born January 6, 1878 in Gardner County, Illinois. He was the son of Zara Adkins, Reader, Knibbs. On October 9, 1898 Charles married Nellie Vesta Barton, she was a daughter of William H. and Minerva Ellen Barton of Fayette County, Illinois.

Charles worked as a foreman on the Armstrong Ranch in Woodson County, south of Toronto, until 1917. Charles and Nellie moved into Toronto, where he worked for the Armstrong General Store.

To this union eighteen children were born; Dale, Howard A., Olive Fern, George Ed., Frances Ellen, June Marquarite, Charles A., and Hazel Albert.

Charles passed away January 6, 1932; Nellie on September 2, 1944. Both are buried in the Toronto Cemetery.

Zara Elizebeth passed away in April 1946, at the age of 87 years. George Knibbs passed away January 17, 1912, both are laid to rest in the Toronto Cemetery.

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SILVER MINING — 1876

The same fever of excitement that surged through the veins of the forty-niners in the hectic days of California gold rush brought scores of men to the scene of a silver find some twelve or fifteen miles southwest of Yates Center. Rumors of this newest Eldorado had spread like wildfire and daily through our town by covered wagon, horseback and afoot, passed those in quest of a fortune to be dug from the earth. Battered old prospectors, veterans of various mining camps shared the road with young fellows heeding the call of adventure for the first time. No need to speculate on the destination of a man with a few possessions wrapped in a bandana and tied to the end of a stick carried over his shoulder. We knew he was another prospector bound for Silver City.

Finding the ore in small amounts stimulated the word for awhile but ultimate failure to obtain it in paying quantities led to gradual abandonment of the project. A year or so after its desertion we visited it, Aunt Mollie Walter, the two babies and I stopped there one day on our way home from Neodesha.

A large area of ground was full of deep gaping holes, some so deep that we feared falling in if we got close enough to obtain a good view of their interior. A myriad of sparkling rocks lined the holes, making a pretty picture.

The above article was taken from an early article written by Mrs. J.W. Depew, whose husband at that time was working on the Butler Ranch about 3 miles N.W. of Yates Center.

THE EDWARD W. STOCKEBRAND FAMILY —

Edward W. was the eldest son of Ernest and Anna Stockebrand. He was born on June 23, 1888 on the homestead of his grandfather, Ernst Stockebrand. Ernst had staked out this homestead along Owl Creek in 1857.

Edward married Edith Bessie Charlotte Weide, October 19, 1913. Edith was the daughter of Charles H. and Minnie (Upperman). She was born August 5, 1891 in the Turkey vicinity where she spent her childhood days. She was noted for her high soprano vocal solo singing ability. She spent her entire life in and around Yates Center. Edith and Edward made their home on the Stockebrand homestead.

To this union, eleven children were born:

(1)Milton E. married Alberta Coltrane, their children were Raymond, Yvonne, Martha, James, Karen and Kent (twins). (2) Maynard married Lottie Mabe. They had three children: David, Henry, Sandra. Henri Lucille was adopted. (3) Wendell (Pete) married Zelma (Dutton) Lawless, who had two children by a previous marriage, Davie and Kathy. (4) Warren Kenneth married Barbara Abbott. They have two adopted children, Lyndall and Gil. Kenneth lives in the Yates Center area, as do all of the brothers. Kenneth served two terms as county clerk of Woodson County. He worked for 27 years for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (5)Naomi Ann married Loyd Coltrane. They had seven children: John, Daniel and Mary (twins), Linda, Kathleen, Jack and Stephen Todd. (6) Lois Nadine resides in Kansas City. (7) Thelma Jean married Joseph Kline, of Wichita. They have four children: Virginia, Joseph Jr., Michael and Marla. (8)Martha Gwendelyn married Richard Tucker. They have five children: Martha, Lois, Donald, Carol and Curtis. (9) Gerald (Deed), has adopted two children from a previous marriage, Larry and Karen. He later married Betty (Gustin) Sowder, who has five children by a previous marriage: Carey, Jana, Rhanda, Susan and Annette. Deed and Betty reside on the original homestead of his great-grandfather. (10) Judith married Allen Dean Swibald. They live in Topeka and have two sons, Ronald and Roger. (11) Larry Joe (Jake) makes his home with his sister Naomi Ann at Iola. He visits his brothers and sisters on weekends. All of the Stockebrand children are active in church and its activities.



The Edward W. Stockebrand Family

ODDS AND ENDS —

Woodson County Advocate - November 1, 1912

Monday evening, shortly after 9 o'clock, two men walked into the electric light plant building and at the point of a revolver commanded James O'Donnell, the night man, to "throw up his hands". He naturally complied with their request, and then they proceeded to bind and gag him. After turning the switch to put out the lights, the ruffians carried O'Donnell across the railroad tracks and threw him into the weeds near the ice plant pond. Charles Opperman, who was at home, phoned to the plant to learn the cause of darkness, but as he was unable to get any response he started for the plant to learn the cause of the trouble. He also phoned O'Donnell's brother at the depot and they met and went in the direction of the plant. A search was then made for the missing man and he was found near the pond, loudly calling for help. He had succeeded in removing the gag from his mouth and making an outcry. No trace could be found of the men who bound him and it is believed their motive was to extinguish all electric lights and then commit robbery under cover of darkness. Bloodhounds traced them to the depot, where it is thought they boarded a train and made their escape.

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Josephine E. Howard, was born near Lawrence in 1862. In 1864 her family moved to the homestead near the present town of Vernon. Here in 1880 she was married to Allen Howard. Mr. Howard died January 13, 1910 at Vernon.

Mrs. Howard had been failing in health the past year, but not until seven weeks ago was she seriously ill. She leaves her mother, Mrs. E. J. Howard, two sisters, Mrs. Geo. E. Brown and Mrs. Wm. F. Harper, all of Vernon. And two sisters, Miss Hattie, who is a teacher at Buffalo, Kansas, and Mrs. Lutishia Shaw of Preston, Kansas.

Mrs. Howard died in a hospital in Wichita where she had gone for treatment, and brought back to Yates Center for burial. Rev. W. L. French conducted the funeral at the Methodist Church.

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Benjiman G. True, was born near Dearborn, Indiana, September 19, 1825. He was raised on a farm and received such education as the county subscription schools of that age afforded. He was married to Miss Velina Tower, February 23, 1848, and the next year took up his residence on a farm near what is now Kankakee, Illinois. To this union two children were born, Mary A., now Mrs. Crosby of Yates Center, and Emma F. who died and the age of two.

ODDS AND ENDS —

His wife died at the age of 24 years on May 14, 1854 and in that year he married Miss Lucy E. Chamberlain who was his life's companion until she passed away May 28, 1897.

In 1870 Mr. True went to Burlington, Kansas, where he engaged in the lumber business until 1881, when he came to Yates Center and again engaged in the lumber business.

More than 30 years of his long busy life were spent in Yates Center. He was naturally of a religious turn of mind and united with the Methodist church in 1856 and remained a member of that church until 1887 when he transferred his membership to the Christian Scientist church and remained a member of that body until his death. He passed away at his beautiful home in Yates Center on October 23, 1912, aged 87 years. He was from a family of 10 children, and he was the last one to go. He left one sister and his daughter, Mrs. Crosby.

Funeral services were held at the family residence, conducted by Elder G. H. Lamb of the Christian church, after which the remains were shipped to Kankakee, Illinois.

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The Yates Center High School football team went to Burlington Thanksgiving Day to play the High School team at that place. They were defeated by a score of 44 to 0. Burlington has one of the champion teams of the state and has not lost a game this season.

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Prof. Thurlow Lieurance, formerly of Fredonia, has been given a commission by the government to make records of the original Indian music and for the past two years has been engaged at that work. He will give a concert at the Christian church December 27, assisted by an orchestra and will demonstrate the music. Jas. Butin, the popular whistler, will also accompany him.

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Married at 11 o'clock Thursday morning November 28, at the Christian parsonage in Yates Center, by Rev. Kole, Mr. Norman Dodd and Miss Ona May Baker. The groom is the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dodd Sr. Ona May is the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Baker, four miles north-west of Vernon.

* * * * *

John Phillip Lawton was born in New York state February 21, 1849, and died at his home in Yates Center December 20, 1912, age 63 years, nine months. He came from New York to Iowa in young manhood. For some years he was editor of the Newell Mirror of Newell, Iowa. He came to Yates Center in 1903 and for several years was the editor of this paper.

ODDS AND ENDS —

He leaves a wife, one daughter, Mrs. Maggie Leacher, and four sons: Jay, Bert, Frank and Ray.

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Messrs. Derby and Barbee have put in an undertaking establishment fully equipped with new and up to date supplies.

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Glenn H. Barbee of Yates Center and Miss Mrytle Stroble of Kansas City, Kansas were married December 11, 1912. Mrs. Barbee is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theadore Stroble, Mr. Barbee has lately started in the furniture and undertaking business here.

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Minnie Elvira Macoubrie, daughter of N. S. Macoubrie was born in Woodson County, Kansas, January 29, 1893. On February 10, 1910 she was united in marriage to George Allen of Montrose, Colorado. In the spring of 1912 they moved to Woodson County and lived on the Ollie Crandall farm, north of Yates Center for several years. Services were held at Finney Chapel, December 9, 1919. Elder G. H. Lamb officiated. Burial was in the Askren Cemetery.

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Bert Owens, more generally known as "Bas", was considered a good rider and bronc buster. Owens ran a threshing machine for several years in the vicinity of Keck. He also owned one of the first automobiles in northwest Woodson County. In 1910 he owned a car that cranked on the side.

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Hugh R. Campbell owned a 1912 Jackson car. It had three doors — no door on the right hand side. It used carbide lights, with a carbide tank on the fender.

* * * * *

"Bent" Morgan, who spent a part of his life along Turkey Creek and around the town of Keck, was quite a character in his time. He was at one time married to Miss Hattie Dawson, but after a while, she divorced him and took her maiden name back. Morgan, while married to Hattie, lived part of the time at the Dawson home. Her brother R. T. "Tom" Dawson, and his sister lived together.

Tom and Bent did not get along very good. Tom carried a gun most of the time. Bent knew it and left him alone. Bent was a heavy drinker and was arrested several times. he would resist arrest and would fight in going to jail. Myron Rhea, sheriff arrested Bent and when Bent attempted to fight, Myron shot at close range. Morgan pushed the gun up sending the bullet through Bent's hat.

THE KEITH HERRING FAMILY —

Keith Herring was born October 23, 1891 in a log cabin in Indian Territory, near a small town called Wann, not far from Caney, Kansas, the nearest Kansas town. He was a son of Christian F. and Jessie Belle Herring.

At the outbreak of World War I, Keith, with several neighbor boys went to Caney where they joined the National Guard, on June 4, 1917. They were mustered into Federal service on August 5, 1917. Keith was a part of Co. D, 139th Infantry. They landed in France on May 15, 1918. It was on April 11, 1919, that they again landed in New York.

After his discharge from the army, Keith seemed to make his life work the different oil fields of southeast Kansas.

Keith Herring and Miss Helen Gray were married June 25, 1921. Helen was a daughter of Hallock and Amanda Gray, of Independence, Kansas. They were the parents of two sons, Marvin, September 17, 1922 and Kenneth, born February 20, 1924.

The Herrings moved to Coffeyville from the oil field at Colony. They moved around quite a lot but to different oil fields as the Prairie Oil and Gas sold to the Sinclair and then the Atlantic Richfield.

Keith was a pumper of production.



This picture of Helen and Keith Herring was taken about their 64th wedding anniversary. They observed their 66th wedding anniversary in June 1987.

After 30 years working in the oil fields on many leases and different companies Keith retired and moved to Yates Center. They had been living on the Maclaskey lease in northwest Woodson County. Keith retired November 1, 1956.

The Woodson County Historical Society was organized a few years after they moved to Yates Center. Keith and Helen became Charter Members of the Historical Society. Helen became Secretary of the local Society and held that office for 10 years.

The old rock church and chicken hatchery was purchased to be made into a museum by the Woodson County Historical Society. Like most tasks of that kind, with a hundred or more members the job fell mostly on about a dozen. Keith and Helen were two of that dozen. Keith became the "handyman" of the group. Whenever something needed fixing or a new idea was needed, Keith was right handy. At this same time, Helen Herring spent many hours of hard work as we got the museum in shape to open.

Marvin married Flora Mae Mathers. They have no children. His first wife died.

Kenneth Herring married Celia Belle Harrison. Their children are: David Harrison, who married Patricia Ann Pitzer, September 7, 1972; Abbie Susan Herring, married Kelly Kerr, March 7, 1970, and Peter Kenneth married Kelly Leigh Hamblin, June 1, 1975. Paul Marvin Herring is not married, and lived in Wichita.

Keith and Helen have four grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren.

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We have quite a selection of back issues of "In The Beginning" on hand if any of our readers or others would like to get lost issues or perhaps some one would like to get a complete set as they missed out on all of them. The address is 411 N. State St., Yates Center, Kansas 66783.

BIG SANDY LODGE NO. 173 - of F.M.B.A.

Just ninety years now a local lodge was organized in the Big Sandy Creek area. The minutes of that first meeting gives the following:

Belmont, Woodson County, Kansas — August 20, 1889.

The persons below named met at Jewet school house and was organized into a subordinate lodge by lodge No. 149. (We believe that the patrons of Lodge No. 149 lived more to the northeast in the Belmont area.)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. J. Mullot | 7. J. A. Gregory |
| 2. F. M. Henley | 8. Albert Hodgson |
| 3. A. C. Campbell | 9. A. Harp |
| 4. Jeff. Harp | 10. John Clemens |
| 5. J. E. Daniel | 11. Calvin Read |
| 6. John Harp | |

And the following persons were elected as officers:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| A. C. Campbell | Sect. | F.M. Henley | Pres. |
| J. A. Gregory | Vice. Pres. | A. Hodgson | Tradesman |

The name of Big Sandy selected to designate the lodge.

Other men becoming members of this lodge in the next couple of months were: Geo. C. Smith, C. E. Gregory, Wm. Harp, George D. Daniel, Jasper Daniel, T. W. Barrett, John B. Matlock, Wm. J. Little, George W. Rogers, John D. Depew, Frank Daniel, J. H. Keller, George Blevins.

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Woodson County Advocate — Yates Center — Nov. 1, 1912.

The E. S. L. sent 23 members to Big Sandy school house on Friday evening to hold a Suffrage meeting. The speaker, Mrs. Ella Baldwin of Kansas City, spoke to a large enthusiastic and sympathetic crowd. The workers were met at Batesville by autos and upon arriving at the school house found it already filled.

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The newest furniture store will be open for business in a few days. Mr. Glen H. Barbee, a licensed embalmer and funeral director, will be connected with the store.

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Dr. Briler of Kansas City, came in the first of the week to resume his work of Physical Director. He has a good class at this place and the pupils are all doing fine Scientific exercise. The kind that brings into action the functions necessary for health is his object. He does not profess to take the place of a physician, but his place is to help them.

W. K. STOCKEBRAND Family —

Warren Kenneth, perhaps better known as "Kenny," son of Edw. and Edith (Weide) Stockebrand, was born December 26, 1921, on the original Stockebrand homestead, that has been in the family since 1857.

On March 15, 1953 Kenneth was married to Barbara Abbott, daughter of Carl and Eva Abbott. She was born September 19, 1922 and was raised and spent her entire life on the Abbott farm about a half mile south of the east side of Yates Center. She was a graduate of the Yates Center schools. Kenneth and Barbara have lived on the Abbott farm since their marriage.

They have two children. Lyndal, who was born December 28, 1955, married Don Stiffler, who had two sons, Justin and Ryan by a previous marriage and they have a daughter Brylie Dawn. Lyndal has a special education and has been teaching at Hidalgo, Texas that is along the Rio Grande River.

Gil was born February 15, 1957. He graduated from Emporia State with a degree in biology and minor in Chemistry. He is also a drummer with a band in Branson, Missouri at this time.

Kenny served 3 years and 10 months in the U.S. Army Airforce during World War II, July 1942 until March 1946. He was discharged as a 1st Sgt. Returning home, he joined the local Kansas National Guard unit in Yates Center, serving 22 years in the guard. He retired at the rank of Battalion, Sgt. Major.



Barbara and Kenny Stockebrand.

In 1951, Kenny was elected County Clerk of Woodson County, serving that office for two terms before resigning April, 1954 to become the County Executive Director, Woodson County USDA, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, where he administered Federal Farm Program. He served as President of the Kansas ASC employees for a year. Kenny retired from the USDA service after 27 years. He has been President of the Woodson County Historical Society for several years and has been active in the building project of the Woodson County Historical Museum. For over 20 years he took part in the organizing of the 4-H parade each fall.



Brylie Dawn.



Lyndall Stockebrand Stiffler.



Gil Stockebrand.

THE LESTER A. HARDING FAMILY —

Lester Albert Harding was born November 21, 1904 on a 40 acre farm a mile north of where the Burt store stood for quite a few years. The middle name of Albert came from his grandfather Albert Harding.

He was the youngest of four children. His sister Ethel Mae was born in the same three room house about six years earlier. His mother, Carrie Belle (Butler) was born on the Butler Homestead about 2½ miles from his birthplace.

When Lester was about a year old his father George Harding sold his forty acres and moved to Kansas City, Missouri, where George and two older sons, Arthur and Percy were carriers for the Kansas City Star and Times. They lived on Holly Street, on the west bluff of the city.

Meanwhile, Lester was growing up to be a skinny sort of a kid and was given the nickname of "Skinny." In 1912 the family moved back to Woodson County to an 80 acre farm a mile north of the Turkey Creek Church.

On February 17, 1928, Lester A. Harding and Edith Emma Williams were married at the Methodist parsonage in Yates Center, with Rev. A. W. Johnson officiating. Edith was the third child of six boys and six girls in the family of John and Clara (Mentzer) Williams, who lived in the West Owl Creek vicinity.

The Great Depression and the drouth of the Dirty Thirties made farming rather uphill business. And World War II followed those bad years.

Following this, Lester started working for the farm program, first known as the Triple A., and later the name would change with each new U. S. president. Lester received a 35 year certificate. While keeping up her housework, Edith worked in the kitchen of the 54 Cafe, Woodys Cafe and at the Autumn Manor.

IN THE BEGINNING, is a publication started by Lester in January, 1968, and will end, as far as he is concerned with this No. 80. It has been called "the Voice of the Woodson County Historical Society." There are some plans being made to try and continue with this publication by some members of the Historical Society.

During World War II, Lester and Edith sold their stock and moved to Kansas City, Kansas, where they both worked for the North American Aviation. The first month Edith was sent to school to learn to use a riveting gun but when she reported at the plant she was sent to the hanger where she assembled machine guns.

Dorothy was born November 12, 1928. She is at present working for the U.S. Army at Ft. Riley. She was married to Gerald Dean Osburn December 30, 1950. Gerald has retired from the U.S. Army after 23 years of service. He still works for the army.

Gerald and Dorothy have two sons, Kelly Dean and Lynn Gerald. Kelly is not married. He works for the Firestone store in Junction City, Kansas.

Lynn married JoAnne Campbell. They have a 3 year old son, Cameron. JoAnne teaches in the Gridley High School Lynn is a L.P.N. at the Regency West Nursing Home in Yates Center.

Alberta Marie was born May 24, 1930. She married Robert Eugene Edwards May 28, 1948. They live on a farm fourteen miles northwest of Yates Center, where Robert keeps quite a few cattle.

Robert and Alberta had three sons, twins Donald Lee and Ronald Dee, and Bradley Craig Edwards. Ronald Dee died at birth in 1950.



This is a picture of the Hardings. Seated are Edith E. and Lester A.. Standing are from the left, Alberta Marie and Dorothy Faye. Picture taken 1944.

Donald Lee was married to Miss Theda McCormick. Donald has been a worker on the railroad, first with the M.O.P. Theda operated a Beauty Shop in their home until November 8, 1978, when she died of cancer, at the age of 28 years, 8 months and 16 days. They had a son, Trenton Bruce Edwards. Trenton has enrolled this fall at Kansas University.

Donald L. later married Donna Sheely. She has two daughters, Stephanie and Suzy. Donald and Donna have a daughter, Jennifer. Donna teaches in the Yates Center Schools.

Bradley Craig Edwards married Kathryn Ann Sweet. They live at Salina, where Brad teaches in Southeast Salina consolidated school, where he teaches the fourth grade. Kathryn manages a correctional group of boys.



Edith and Lester Harding, 1987. On February 17, 1988, they will have been married for 60 years.

THE LOTER FAMILY —

Several years ago the writer had a conversation or a correspondence by mail, with a man named George Loter asking for information about the Loter family, who had at an early date lived at Neosho Falls. He has compiled quite a lot about this family and sent a part of it to us. He had obtained information back as far as 1760, starting at Salem Township, New York. However, for lack of space we will take up the story.

We will come down to 3 or 4 generations and start in with Jacob Loter in Illinois, in 1836. He had 12 children, six died as infants. The other six were Hiram, 1837; Mahalla, 1838; Laura, 1841; India Anne, 1842; Henry, 1845; and Amos, 1846.

Jacob and family moved to Alton, Illinois, about 1855. Hiram moved on to settle at Neosho Falls, where he met and married Julianna Perry in 1856, (Neosho Falls was not settled until 1957), but people were settling along the Neosho River at that time. They had two sons, Jacob J., and William Travis, who stayed in and around Neosho Falls all of his life. He died in Neosho Falls on his 100th birthday in 1957.

In 1861, Hiram Loter went to Warsaw, Missouri to enlist in the Union Army. He was called up in Hudson, Missouri and returned to Neosho Falls in 1864, where he lived until he died in 1916. Hiram, Julianne and William are all buried in the Neosho Falls Cemetery.

Eli Abith Loter died in Alton, Illinois in 1862, and Jacob died in 1864. The children at home were India Anne, age 22; Henry, 19; and Amos, 18. These three left Illinois, probably by rail, for Neosho Falls to the home of their older brother Hiram. India Anne stayed there while Henry and Amos got jobs driving horses to the 101 Ranch at Ponca City, Oklahoma. Henry stayed around Arkansas City. He married Mary Jane Williams. They made the "Run" into Oklahoma, and settled near Newkirk, Oklahoma. Amos broke and trained horses for the 101 Ranch, Pawnee Bill and Buffalo Bill, and traveled with these western shows until 1892.

When India Anne arrived in Neosho Falls she lived with her brother, Hiram. A family story tells of the time there was an Indian Attack on the settlement and that India Anne swam the Neosho River carrying powder to the men who were fighting the Indians. This had to be between 1862 and 1867 as she married a Kickapoo Indian in 1867. His name was Oliver Hathaway. He worked for Buffalo Bill.



The Hiram Lotter Family, seated are Hiram P. Lotter and Laura Loter, J. Jump. Standing are William Travis Loter, India Anne Loter-Hathaway and Amos Dixon Loter.

ODDS AND ENDS —

State Exchange Bank — Yates Center, Kansas At Close of Business, June 23, 1915

Resources		Liabilities	
Loans &			
Discounts	\$106,489.68	Capital	\$25,000.00
Overdrafts	230.74	Surplus & Net Profits	4,231.79
Banking House Furn.			
& Fixtures	7,717.15	Deposits	<u>123,094.67</u>
Other Resources	260.92		
Guarantee Fund with State			\$152,326.46
Treasurer	500.00		
Cash & Sight Drafts	<u>37,127.97</u>		
	\$152,326.46		

H.H. Mc Cormick, Pres.

E.F. Light, Vice Pres.

W. J. O'Donnell, Cashier

Comparative Deposits

June 23, 1909	\$ 13,551.82
June 23, 1910	33,280.78
June 23, 1911	34,102.44
June 23, 1912	54,806.75
June 23, 1913	58,824.36
June 23, 1914	89,389.22
June 23, 1915	123,094.67

DIRECTORS

H.H. McCormick • E. F. Light • W.J. O'Donnell
C. F. Pribbernow • J. S. Stark

* * * * *

Denny Corkery was a familiar figure on Yates Center streets. His memory of the Civil War he held dear for he was General Sheridan's orderly and made with him the memorable ride, the basis for the old poem, "Sheridan's Ride." No Decoration Day program was complete without his rendition of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

* * * * *

Dave Alspaugh, his cart and his horse, for years and years traveled the streets of Yates Center delivering the express packages for the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

EARLY SCHOOL HISTORY OF WOODSON COUNTY —

While the first schools of the county were started around 1860, or some before, it was not until 1867 that any records were kept. S. J. Williams was the elected Woodson County Superintendent of Public Instruction. The report for that year is as follows.

In 1867 there were 12 qualified teachers in the county. There were 21 school districts numbered but just 19 reported. The whole number of children reported between the ages of 5 years to 21 years were males, 301; females, 270 - 1 colored female.

Attending school that year were 191 males and 173 females, an average of 186. The school terms were from 3 to 6 months.

There were 13 school buildings. There were 10 made of logs and three frame buildings. Their value was listed as \$1,932.

In 1868, there were 21 districts. Male children were 348; female 352, and 4 colored. Pupils going to school that year were 219 males and 196 females enrolled with an average of 226. There were seven log school houses and seven frame.

In 1871, there were 46 school houses, eight log, 35 frame, two stone, and one brick. In 1873 there were 57 school houses, two log, 51 frame, 4 stone.

In February 1866, there were 10 districts marked off, all having school and school houses, except District # 10. There was never a school house built nor school held in that district. The pupils went to Philmoore and other schools north of Neosho Falls.

PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Milton & Virginia Schornick
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand
John V. Glades Agency
Street Abstract Co., Inc.
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell
Self Service Grocery
Steiner's Sundries
Piqua Farmer's Co-op
Morton Equipment Co.
Swope & Son Implement Co.
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.
The Herring Families
Cantrell Hay Co.,
 Craig Cantrell
Helene Schnell
Wilma Mark
Yates Center News
Pringle Ranch-
 J. Richard Pringel
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy
Campbell Funeral Home
Glen & Zola Baker
Piqua State Bank

Lynn and Gail Cantrell
Gaulding Oil Co.
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward
Clyde Hill
Hi-Way Food Basket
Jaspers Shopping Spot
Daly Western Supply
Linde Barber Shop
Campbell Plg. & Electric
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau
Jaynes Insurance Agency
Glenn Shaw
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews
Milton & Marcella Wrampe
Loren & Rita Cantrell
Al's Jewelry
Thomas Wilson
Bill Herman
Abbott & Ethel Crandall
Lawrence M &
 Alice Catherin Smith

